

Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council

Monday, October 15, 2012

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Governor's Video Conference Rooms

205 Capitol, State and Monroe

16th floor, 100 W. Randolph

Dial-in 888-494-4032 Access Code 4218176480#

Minutes

Chicago: Delio Calzolari, Amber Kirchhoff, Ann Kondziela, Julie Smith

Phone: Cindy Doil, Craig Fiegel, Chris McIntyre, Deb Strauss, Cynthia Ward (for Michelle Carmichael)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 18, 2012 we approved as presented.

III. Overview of Commissioner Selection Process

Julie Smith provided an overview of the legislation and its prescriptions around membership and governance. Lizanne DeStefano described the selection process which began with drafting a position description for candidates based on expectations laid out in the enacting legislation as well as feedback from the Council. Following the drafting of a description of the Commissioners roles and responsibilities, the document was distributed widely through the Council and other networks. Candidates were allowed to be nominated or to self nominate. A resume and letter of interest was required of all applicants.

A search committee consisting of representatives from the P-20 Council including the Governor's Office, Lieutenant Governor's Office, and IL State Board of Education (ISBE) as well as the IL Department of

Veterans Affairs (IDVA) was formed to review applications. A narrowed group of applicants were interviewed to better understand candidate's enthusiasm for serving as chair of the Council, initiative for serving as a liaison between the Compact, Council, and other state stakeholders, and strategies for broadening engagement and initiating dialogue amongst stakeholders among other things.

DeStefano thanked Council and those who served on the Committee for their time. She noted that the group of applicants had impressive experience and qualifications. She also highlighted the fact that nearly all applicants were either members of military families themselves or already in a role serving military families. Candidates ranged from principals to superintendents to former congressional staffers to family liaisons. Lastly, she indicated that she hoped that applicants will continue to be engaged with the Council moving forward.

a. Discussion of commissioner candidate for endorsement by IEOMCC

Based on the applications submitted and conversation with candidates during interviews, Brian Riegler was unanimously selected as the recommended candidate. He was able to articulate the mission of the Compact well, has demonstrated innovative approaches to addressing needs of students in transition, and is excited to enhance the Council's outreach efforts on behalf of the Compact.

A biography for Brian was provided to the Council for review. As principal of Waukegan High School, Brian brings nearly two decades of combined experience as an educator and administrator. He is responsible for nearly 4500 students including a large percentage of students from military families associated with nearby Great Lakes Naval Base. Waukegan High School is home to the largest and one of the longest running JRTOC programs at a community based public high school in the nation. As a veteran who served multiple tours in Iraq, he has first-hand experience with the challenges faced by families with active duty parents.

DeStefano requested that the Council recommend Brian as the candidate for Commissioner to the P-20 Council. Brian's endorsement was unattested.

IV. Update on Annual MIC3 Meeting

a. Review and Discussion of Agenda

It was noted that Illinois has been in contact with the national Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and they are anxiously awaiting the appointment of the next Commissioner. They are excited to begin working with the new Commissioner at the annual meeting scheduled for November 15-17 in Charleston, South Carolina. DeStefano mentioned that Cindy Doil had also registered for the conference. She will be a helpful resource for the new Commissioner since she has attended past meetings.

Council reviewed the agenda for the annual MIC3 meeting. It was noted that committee updates would be made. The previous commissioner belonged to the Rules Committee so the new commissioner will

be assigned to that Committee as well unless there is a request for a change. Any request for change of assignment will be taken under consideration by MIC3.

The Public Relations and Training Committee will also meet. This is a committee on which the Council would like to keep up to date given the Council's efforts to develop outreach materials.

The agenda also noted that there will be time for newly formed committees to meet. The topic areas of these committees were not listed but the Commissioner will be asked to learn more about them in case they are of particular interest.

i. Review and Discussion of Action Items

A rule change regarding the Kindergarten entry age is being proposed for action. The new language would require receiving schools to accept students who have enrolled and attended at least one day of Kindergarten at the sending school to accept the student into Kindergarten. Since Illinois did not adopt this portion of the compact language, this change would not impact Illinois' compact. However, Illinois will have the opportunity to weigh in on this proposed change.

Craig Fiegel noted that this issue can sometimes be a cause for concern when children arrive from states with Kindergarten entry ages of four. Districts tend to handle these instances on a case by case basis depending on the development of the student in question. It was noted that districts may refer to this and other MIC3 votes to inform local practice and policy when an issue is not addressed in Illinois' compact.

Delio noted that at the last annual conference, a change had been made to the process for assessing dues. Dues will now be assessed based on where a student is assigned as opposed to where a student resides. This change is expected to result in a \$1500 difference in dues for Illinois.

The Commissioner will be asked to take note of the discussion and any final action for reporting back to the Council at the next meeting. The Council agreed that prior to the Commissioner attending the MIC3 annual meeting, he should be briefed by members of the Council on the background of the Council and prominent topics of conversation in order to provide context for the meeting for him.

V. Update on Outreach Materials

Last time the Council met, the group discussed sample FAQ's and a tool kit addressing key questions about Illinois' compact. We also looked at examples from other states including Virginia and Florida's outreach materials and communications plans. Council was asked to send other materials and resources that they use as well as any suggestions for improving drafts provided at last meeting.

The Council was thanked for all of the feedback it provided. Amber Kirchhoff indicated that she had been working to address questions and obtain clarification to ensure the most accurate information was incorporated into updated documents. Updated documents will be reviewed and discussed at the next Council meeting.

Anne Kondziela noted that the Council might contact MIC3 to request the use of their logo on outreach materials to enhance recognition of materials and provide standardization.

VI. Other Business

Cindy noted that in accordance with the legislation, the superintendents represented on the Council as voting members are to be from the three districts with the largest percentages of military students. Currently, the three districts with the largest number of military students are represented. Action will be taken to conform with the legislative language. Julie encouraged all who are interested in supporting students of military students to participate in the Council regardless of voting status.

The next meeting is to be scheduled via email. Meeting will be held near the date of the P-20 Council meeting on January 23, 2012.

VII. Adjourn